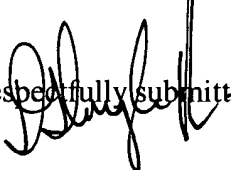


REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the present application and have been amended to make minor editorial revisions and to place them in form for examination.

In view of the foregoing, early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


D. Douglas Price
Reg. No. 24,514

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP
1330 Connecticut Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: 202-429-6748